

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 137 I was detained off the House floor during this 2 minute vote series and was unable to cast my vote before the vote was closed. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

THE RECENT TRAGEDY IN CYPRUS

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2011

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express support and sympathy for the people of Cyprus about the tragedy that recently occurred in one of their naval bases, killing 13 people and injuring dozens more. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Cyprus at this extremely difficult time.

This tragic story begins with a courageous act of international leadership by the government of Cyprus. In January 2009, a Cypriot-flagged merchant ship was illegally transporting arms from Iran to Syria, when it was called to port by the Cypriot government. Acting on their suspicions, Cypriot forces arrested the sailors aboard the ship, seized the arms, and stored them at the Evangelos Florakis Naval Base in Zygi, Cyprus, where they had been kept until now.

On Monday, July 11, the gunpowder in these containers was ignited by a brush fire and exploded. Thirteen Cypriots were killed in this massive explosion and fire, including the commander of the Cypriot navy, Andreas Ioannides, and the commander of the base, Lambros Lambrou. The explosion also damaged the most important power plant in Cyprus, which normally supplies 60 percent of the electricity for the island, causing widespread blackouts, reducing water supply, and threatening the nation's economy.

This tragic event is made only more so by the fact that it began with such a great act of leadership on the part of the Cypriot government. I know my colleagues join me in extending our deepest appreciation to the Cypriot government for the actions they took to stop the illegal arms shipment and in expressing our deepest condolences for those who lost their lives and all those who were harmed by this tragic event.

We stand ready to assist the Cypriot people to recover from this accident and look forward to many more years of working together to advance the cause of world peace.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOHN GLENN

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2011

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my very best birthday wishes to the Honorable John Glenn of Ohio on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

John Glenn is an American hero and a true legend. It is difficult to believe that today he is celebrating his 90th birthday. He is a hero in war, a hero in peace and remains a hero in the hearts of his countrymen.

Growing up in New Concord, Ohio, and attending Muskingum College, he was on his way to his girlfriend Annie's organ recital at Brown Chapel when he heard the news that Pearl Harbor had been attacked. That changed their lives and changed America forever.

His incomparable life of service began as a Marine Corps fighter pilot flying the F4U Corsair in the South Pacific in World II and the F9F Panther and F-86 Sabrejet in Korea. In 1957, as part of Project Bullet, he made the first supersonic transcontinental flight from California to New York in a F8U Crusader.

In 1959, he was chosen by the recently established National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as one of the original seven astronauts for Project Mercury. Next February will be the 50th Anniversary of John Glenn's orbital flight aboard Friendship Seven. Just last month John Glenn and Scott Carpenter, the only two surviving Mercury Astronauts reunited at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., to recollect and discuss their historic flights and America's Space program.

Of course we all know that John Glenn did not end his public service at that point. In 1974 he became a U.S. Senator from Ohio and served for 24 years. In 1997, John Glenn announced his retirement from the Senate stating that there was no cure for the common birthday. Nonetheless, in 1998, he returned to space aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery at age 77 to study the effects of space flight on seniors.

You can be sure that John Glenn doesn't stand still. He worked to establish the John Glenn School of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University and he served as Chairman of the National Commission on Math and Science Teaching for the 21st Century.

I have been honored to join him on many occasions at public events in Ohio. He is clearly on the side of maintaining our commitment to the manned space program and disappointed with the decision to end the Space Shuttle Program.

At 90 he is recovering from a knee replacement but still pilots his own plane and admits that his greatest success was not war, space, or politics but 68 years of marriage to his childhood sweetheart, Annie.

Happy Birthday John Glenn. We wish you and Annie all the best.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that a column by Connie Shultz of the Cleveland Plain Dealer be printed following my remarks.

[From the Cleveland Plain Dealer, July 18, 2011]

JOHN GLENN TURNS 90: AN APPRECIATION
(By Connie Schultz)

Happy birthday, John Glenn

Two summers ago, John and Annie Glenn loaded up their Cadillac, pulled out of their driveway in Columbus and headed west for 8,400 miles of unscheduled adventure.

"We'd seen the Northwest from the air, but we'd never experienced it on the ground," John said. "We wanted to explore from the road."

For a month, they stopped when they felt like it. They took detours whenever the spirit moved them. They made hotel reservations one day at a time, from the road.

"It was like one long date," Annie told me after their return. "We just enjoy each other's company so much."

John was 88 at the time. Annie was 89. They'd been married 66 years by then.

John Glenn—World War II veteran, the first American to orbit the Earth and Ohio's U.S. senator for 24 years—turns 90 today.

He seems unmoved by the milestone.

"Well, you know what they say," he said from his hospital room, where he is recovering from knee surgery. "If I'd known I was going to live this long, I would have taken better care of myself."

If there is any person whom Americans—particularly Ohioans—expect to be hale and hearty at 90, it's John Glenn.

He was 77, after all, when he launched into space for the second time, on the space shuttle Discovery. Not the normal retirement trajectory for a septuagenarian.

To commemorate John's 90th birthday, LIFE.com has posted an online gallery of 25 previously unpublished photos of Glenn. It is worth a visit, for the photographic glimpses into a fascinating life, and time, in America, and for the narrative that unfolds through the captions, such as this one from a 1964 interview with John:

A lot of people ask . . . why a man is willing to risk [everything] on something like this. Well, we've got to do it. We're going into an age of exploration that will be bigger than anything the world has ever seen. I guess I'm putting my family up against some risks. I could do other jobs, which might increase my life expectancy. But this could help my kids, too. I want them to be better off than I was as a young man. With risks, you gain.

John Glenn is still a champion for space exploration. I talked to him on Saturday, four days after his surgery. He was still in the hospital, in some discomfort but refusing to complain.

Until I asked how he felt about the recent end of the U.S. space shuttle program, that is.

"I could talk to you for three hours about that," he said. "The space station is the most unique laboratory we've ever built. The reason we have it is to do research on materials, people, medical matters, pharmaceuticals—the possibilities are nearly endless."

John Glenn dots the "i" in Script Ohio.

John Glenn dots the i Former Ohio Senator John Glenn dots the i with the alumni

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

band at halftime of the Ohio State-Navy game on Sept. 5.

"People keep talking about how we have to go to Mars. We may want to go to Mars sometime. But we should . . . maximize the research return for our efforts [on the Space Station] for people here on Earth."

I first met John in 1979, when I was an intern in Washington, D.C. He does not remember our first encounter, of course, which I can hardly hold against him. He was a busy U.S. senator. I was a 22-year-old college kid who couldn't wait to call her dad, who had admired John Glenn all his life.

Twenty-five years later, John and Annie became my friends after I married then-U.S. Rep. Sherrod Brown. In January 2007, John escorted Sherrod on the Senate floor for his swearing-in ceremony. Annie, whose gentle advice during the campaign sustained me, held my hand in the Senate gallery.

It would be wrong to commemorate the remarkable life of John Glenn without also celebrating this woman who has been his wife through all of it. They are virtually inseparable these days, and John is the first to acknowledge that Annie makes life worth living.

Annie is as engaging as she is generous, full of opinions earned by living life at full throttle, even when she was scared to death. And that is a crucial truth about Annie Glenn. Americans rightly "ooh" and "ahh" over John Glenn's courage in space, but let us never forget the hero of a wife who gave her public blessing, and then privately prayed until his safe return.

You don't set out to create a myth or some sort of hero worship around yourself or your colleagues, Glenn told LIFE.com of his years as a test pilot and, especially, as an astronaut. But as it happens, you do become aware of it. Of course you're aware of it. You'd be numb if you weren't aware of it. But honestly, we just tried to live up to it as well as we could.

The Glenns are planning to hit the road again soon. This time, they want to drive through the American Southwest.

"We want to take our time," John said. "We want to see where the road will take us."

I am reminded of what his fellow astronaut Scott Carpenter said to John as he lifted off toward the heavens in 1962:

Godspeed, John Glenn.

And Annie, too.

37TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ILLEGAL INVASION OF CYPRUS BY THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2011

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, next week marks the 37th anniversary of the illegal invasion of Cyprus by Turkish armed forces. The lengthy duration of this occupation, which consumes nearly 37 percent of Cyprus' territory, is particularly disappointing given the number of multilateral organizations—the U.N., NATO and the EU—who have a vested interest in this dispute and who should work in concert to bring about a peaceful resolution. While some progress has been made, there is still much work to be done. Greek Cypriots have been evicted from their property, and cultural and religious desecration has been widespread. The Turkish government cannot maintain this occupation and hope to ever achieve membership in the EU.

Respect for international law and calls for self-representation must be answered with regard to Cyprus. Turkey must live up to its international responsibilities and return all of Cyprus to the Cypriots. Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have supported a variety of initiatives in support of this outcome including sending letters to President Obama and Secretary Clinton applauding the administration's commitment to exercise U.S. leadership in the negotiation for a just solution on Cyprus. We agree that a solution to the Cyprus problem should result in a single, sovereign country within a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation. Thirty-seven years of discord is long enough; Cypriots deserve a government for them and by them.

Since his election in February 2008, President Demetris Christofias has followed through on his promise to make the solution of the Cyprus problem his top priority and principal concern. In September of 2008, he embarked on negotiations with the then-leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, Mr. Mehmet Ali Talat, under the auspices of the United Nations with U.S. support. The negotiations are now continuing with the new leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, Mr. Dervis Eroglu.

The solution must reunite the island and safeguard the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Cypriots and the withdrawal of Turkish forces from Cyprus.

WILLIAM "BILL" ALEXANDER

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2011

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. William "Bill" Alexander who passed away in April 2011.

William "Bill" Alexander joined my staff shortly after I entered Congress in the early 1990's. Bill, as he was affectionately known, was a proud "Irishman" who had a strong commitment to social justice and equality.

Mr. Speaker, Bill worked to alert and elevate his fellow man to the highest heights. He especially enjoyed assisting young people as they charted their career steps. Because of Bill's commitment to ensure the forward advancement of others, he was the first to provide gainful employment to those who were seeking to start their public service careers in New York State.

As the Director of the Press Corp for New York State, Bill was instrumental in working closely with newly elected assemblymen, senators and the administration in ensuring that the democratic agenda was well prepared and delivered.

Mr. Speaker, Bill was a consummate reader and enjoyed having a drink during a lively discussion. It was during these times at the water hole that he provided you with his best advice. He was never afraid to take a stand for justice or take an opportunity to set the course for a challenging journey. He faced many obstacles both familiar and professional but always maintained a steady course and determined mind.

As we gather here to remember my friend, colleague, mentor and loved one, it comes to mind that the field of journalism in heaven has

been enhanced by one additional writer who sought and fought for justice for all.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CONGRESSMAN CHARLES W. WHALEN, JR.

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I advise the House of the death of my constituent and former Member of the House, the Honorable Charles W. Whalen, Jr., on June 2, 2011 at Sibley Hospital in Washington, DC. Rep. Whalen, 90, represented Ohio's Third Congressional District from 1967–79 and had resided with his family in Bethesda, Maryland since 1966.

Prior to his election to the U.S. Congress, Congressman Whalen served for 12 years in the Ohio Legislature and was instrumental in the enactment of Ohio's Fair Housing Law. A liberal Republican, he was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1966 and was reelected by wide margins in every subsequent election. In fact, in 1974, he was the only Republican who was unopposed in both the primary and general elections.

Upon his election to the House, Congressman Whalen was initially assigned to the House Armed Services Committee and subsequently became a member of the International Affairs Committee. He served on the Subcommittee on Africa and became an expert on that continent, visiting every single country in that vast land mass.

Congressman Whalen, who served as an Army officer in the India-Burma Theater in World War II, developed very strong reservations about and then opposition to the Vietnam War shortly after coming to Washington. His former chief of staff has noted that Congressman Whalen was attending the funeral of a young Marine from Dayton when he found himself unable to justify to grieving relatives the loss of the young man. The memory of that event remained in the forefront of his mind and guided his efforts to do all he could to bring that conflict to an end. Although his early efforts to end the war were not popular, among his most notable achievements was the Nedzi-Whalen Amendment that he co-sponsored with his good friend and colleague, Congressman Lucien Nedzi (D-MI). The bill sought to end military funding in order to bring the war to a swift close. Although it did not pass, the bill mustered a sizable showing in the House, reflecting growing sentiment to end the war.

Congressman Whalen was a prolific writer, authoring or coauthoring five books. "How to End the Draft: The Case for the All-Volunteer Army," published in 1967 and co-authored with four other GOP moderates, proposed the end of the draft. Most of its recommendations were later adopted by the Nixon Administration, which fashioned them into the legislation that created the all-volunteer military that we have today. His landmark book, "Your Right to Know," endorsed the right of reporters to keep sources confidential. Published in 1973, this book is used today in many journalism, political science and law courses. Congressman Whalen coauthored two works of history with his wife, Barbara: "The Longest Debate: A